

Chemist & Druggist

Benn >>

DECEMBER 21/28 1974 THE NEWSWEEKLY FOR PHARMACY



**New JIC rates
for retail
pharmacy**

**Subsidised
pharmacies
for London?**

**Makers unite
in 'coupon'
promotion**

Who bears a sword that
can't be drawn?
What comes in a bottle but
is never drunk?
What gives protection by germ
destruction?

Dettol-The Great Protector

24 reasons for dispensing Larodopa



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Larodopa is the trade mark for Roche pharmaceutical preparations containing levodopa.

The newsweekly for pharmacy

21/28 December 1974 Vol. 202 No. 4944

116th year of publication

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Ireland and of the Pharmaceutical Society of
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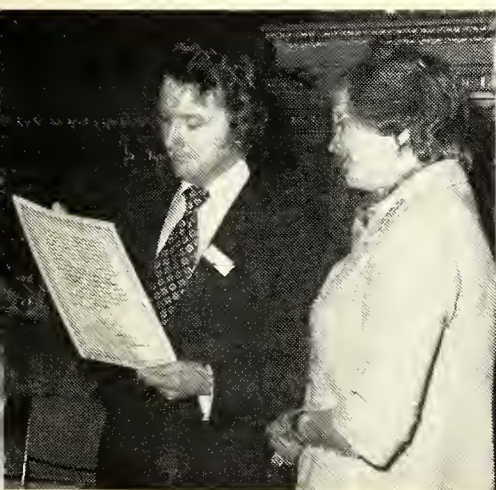
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Professional News

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland

Insulin supply crisis might arise in Ireland

Glaxo (Ireland) Ltd has warned the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland that they fear a supply crisis of insulin might arise, it was stated at the Society's December Council meeting.

The company wrote to the Society, enclosing a copy of the letter they had submitted to the Prices Section of the Department of Industry and Commerce. The covering letter stated the company feared that a supply crisis was likely to develop "unless some immediate action is taken."

The letter to the Department stated in part: "We have been informed that following our planned price increases the pharmaceutical wholesaler will in fact now cease to stock our range of insulin preparations. We do not have the facilities to distribute direct to the 1,200 retail pharmacies throughout the country and unless some urgent action can be taken a crisis situation will develop whereby regular users of insulin could be deprived of readily available supplies. We desire to avoid such a consequence arising at all costs and we request an urgent meeting to examine some way out of the present dilemma."

Concern for public

The president, Dr W. E. Boles, commented that, although the margin of profit and the price increases for insulin were no concern of the Society, anything which would affect essential supplies would be. "I think we should help them (Glaxo) to help the public."

Dr Boles's concern for insulin users was echoed by various members, but it was also felt by several members that it was no concern of the Council, but rather that of the Pharmaceutical Union, which represented the community pharmacists, or manufacturers and wholesalers.

After a brief discussion, it was decided the Society will write to the Minister for Health expressing concern at the serious situation which may arise in the immediate future, should the supply of insulin be withdrawn or restricted, and ask him to see that it did not arise.

Mr R. J. Semple, past president of the Society, presented a portrait of himself to the Council. He felt he had reached a peak in pharmacy, in that he was a past president, and thanked members for their support while he was in office. Dr Boles accepted the portrait on behalf of the Society saying he knew everyone valued his contributions and appreciated the efforts he had put in. Mr Semple was presented with a replica of the president's badge of office.

Mr W. J. Butler brought before the Council a synopsis of the Practice of Pharmacy Committee's recommendations

on the minimum standards which the Council should accept in pharmacies undertaking the training of students. The report, containing 17 recommendations, was seen as the first stage in implementing the proposals contained in the Guide to Good Pharmaceutical Practice which had already been accepted in principle by the Council. The synopsis was discussed and met with general approval.

However, as there were many important points raised, such as the need for refrigerators in pharmacies, and locked cabinets for drug storage, it was decided that the recommendations should be discussed again by the Committee before final approval by Council.

It was agreed that the Economic Survey be circulated as soon as possible and a Press release issued simultaneously. The Council recorded its thanks to Mr John McConnell, Consultant, Irish Management Institute, and to Mr M. F. Walsh, chairman of the Practice of Pharmacy Committee, for the final report of the Professional Fees Survey, and it was decided that a seminar should be held to discuss the Survey.

Mr P. M. Browne, the Society's treasurer, has formed a sub-committee to make arrangements to mark the 100th anniversary of the Society in 1975. Other Committee members are to be Dr Boles and Messrs T. McGuinn, W. J. Butler and R. J. Semple, Mr Browne is chairman.

Wholesale licences

The registrar read a letter from the Department of Health regarding the Medical Preparations (Wholesale Licences) Regulations, 1974, which comes into effect on January 1, 1976. A copy of a public advertisement was enclosed, which stated that it would be necessary for persons engaged in the wholesale sale of medical preparations to hold a licence from the Minister for Health from January 1, 1976. Applications should be made before April 1, 1975, and an explanatory leaflet and notes on the manner of application could be obtained from the Drugs Division, Department of Health, Customs House, Dublin 1.

The Department pointed out that the scheme would be concerned with the suitability of the premises, equipment, staff and also the arrangements for record keeping, handling, storage and distribution in wholesale concerns, and was part of the developing system intended to provide comprehensive control over the production and marketing of medical preparations in Ireland. Licences are to be issued by the Minister for Health on the Advice of the National Drugs Advisory Board who has also been assigned responsibility for supervising the observance of

any conditions laid down by the Minister.

Members of Council expressed the fear that pharmacists would not be sufficiently represented in companies granted such licences and pharmacy would gradually be taken over by "financial speculators." Mr Walsh considered that the Department was fully aware of the Society's thinking on the issue. It was decided the matter should be brought up at a Medicines Legislation Committee meeting.

Arising out of the Law Committee report, the Council agreed to examine the suggestion of naming pharmacists who had been reported not observing forensic regulations.

A letter had been received from a doctor who stated that a pharmacist had supplied, under pressure by a patient, tablets which were stronger than those prescribed. The Council, having decided on action against the pharmacist concerned, emphasised that pharmacists who exceeded the authority of a prescription, whatever the motive, might find themselves in a serious situation and might be deprived of the protection of their professional liability insurance.

Register changes

The following addresses were changed in the Society's registers: Miss Nuala Howard, MPSI, to 82 Temple Road, Blackrock, co Dublin; Mrs Sarah J. Smith, LPSI, and Mr Thomas J. Smith, MPSI, to 16 Dollymount Park, Clontarf, Dublin 3; Mr Brendan J. Smith, MPSI, to 49 Willow Park Grove, Dublin 11; Mr John J. Smith, MPSI, to Parkside Hotel, 7 North Circular Road, Dublin 7; Mr Louis V. Hyland, MPSI, to 2 Old Cabra Road, Dublin 7.

The following were granted change of name in the registers, marriage certificates having been submitted: Mrs Anne Murphy (nee McBrearty), MPSI, Mrs Johanna M. Allen (nee McNamara), Assistant, Mrs Julia T. O'Connell (nee Cronin), Assistant, Mrs Josephine P. O'Neill (nee Foster), Assistant. The Licence Certificates of the following were signed and sealed: Elizabeth M. C. Belton, Helen P. Cahill, Mary C. Connolly, Nora T. Collins, Edward Cotter, Mary P. Fitzmaurice, Richard H. Hofler, Vincent G. Kerr, Mary F. Lordon, V. Gerrard McElwee, Josephine D. Maher, Anna M. Magee, Rosemary J. Martin, Barbara A. Mongan, Geraldine M. M. Murphy, Martin J. Murphy, Maurice A. Neilan, Josephine B. Ryan, Kiernan T. G. White.

The following were nominated for membership: Ann Hillery, Miltown Malbay, co Clare; Helen P. Cahill, Harbour Street, Mullingar; Mary C. Connolly, Sandford Road, Dublin 14; Nora T. Collins, Killeagh, co Cork; Edward Cotter, Mitchelstown, co Cork; Mary Lordan, Dunmanway, co Cork; Anna Maeve Magee, Enniskerry, co Wicklow; Rosemary J. Martin, Dublin Road, Dundalk; Barbara Ann Mongan, Killiney, co Dublin; Geraldine M. Murphy, Rathdown Park, Dublin 6; J. Murphy, Grange Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14; Maurice A. Neilan, Abbey Street, Roscommon; Josephine B. Ryan, Rosanna Road, Tipperary; Kiernan T. G. White, Castle Gardens, Kilkenny.

Dr Boles sees changes in pharmacy

The past century has seen unparalleled changes in the political, social and economic spheres and it is not surprising that the practice of pharmacy has been affected by these changes, said Dr W. E. Boles, president, Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, at the annual conferring ceremony of the College of Pharmacy this month.

The 1875 Pharmacy Act envisaged the pharmacist as a person "keeping open shop" for the sale of poisons and the compounding and dispensing of prescriptions, Dr Boles explained. The EEC draft directives on pharmacy envisaged a much wider role for the pharmacist of the future than was implicit in the Pharmacy Acts. The Society's Council had made its views known to the Minister for Health about the changes in the law which should be introduced in order to reflect the new situation realistically.

Key position

"We have not overlooked the basic principle that the community pharmacist, the man or woman directly involved in providing a service to the public, must occupy a key position in the new scheme of things," said Dr Boles. "The economic realities of life must be recognised, however, and appropriate action taken to ensure that the community pharmacist enjoys a level of income and conditions of work sufficiently attractive to maintain recruitment at a satisfactory level. This is particularly true of rural areas and regions with low-density populations. A planned pharmaceutical service has long been the objective and the dream of pharmaceutical leaders in this country, as in many other states. If we make our case rationally and with conviction, action will follow inevitably."

In a booklet entitled "Health in 1980-1990: A Predictive Study based on an International Inquiry", it was predicted: "The most conspicuous emerging need is for a new type of allied health professional, who is expert in clinical pharmacology and who can handle and distribute these substances safely and effectively. The role of the pharmacist must change accordingly, and will be linked to alterations in the system of drug distribution and the nature of drug prescribing. . . . With increasing governmental control over the pharmaceutical industry, fewer brands of the same drug will be produced and most of the essential ones will be prescribed by their generic names. As part of the attempt to reduce prices, profit margins of producers and distributors will be controlled and certain forms of advertising, for example through free samples for doctors, minimised or

abolished. As medicines tend increasingly to become a commodity of the consumer society, attempts will be made to rationalise their use by doctors and the public. They will be dispensed through government-controlled drug distribution centres, some of which will be located in hospitals or health centres."

The report then predicted: "The pharmacist will fill a new role as manager of such a centre, rather than as the owner of a private pharmacy. His training will make him more of a pharmacologist than a commercial dispenser of prescribed drugs and purveyor of non-prescription medicines. He will be called upon to advise doctors and will carry the legal responsibility for the dispensing of drugs by the distribution centre. His role will lead to a closer and more equal relationship with the medical profession. The traditional pharmacist will survive, however, for the sale of non-prescription medicines, cosmetics, toiletries, and health foods".

"As pharmacists we must ask ourselves if we agree with the role being planned for us by the experts", said Dr Boles. "We must be clear about our own policies, so that we can debate the issues convincingly. I am convinced we can influence the shape of things to come and I am not pessimistic about the future."

Dr Boles made the following proposals for action during 1975:

☐ The reintroduction of the Misuse of Drugs Bill;

☐ The implementation of the recommendations of the Poisons Council (Comhairle na Nimheanna) in relation to a new code of poisons control;

☐ A comprehensive Medicines Act, including the establishment of a central medicines control laboratory, and control over advertising;

☐ A firm decision by the government on the future development and extension of pharmaceutical education, as envisaged in EEC Draft Directives;

☐ Recognition and practical help by the State in post-graduate or continuing education.

Prizewinner

Mr Thomas McGreal, BSc(Pharm) received the P.C. Cahill Memorial Prize for the best candidate in the recent degree examination, and the Antigen prize for achieving first place in pharmaceuticals in the degree examination. The licentiates-elect were:

Honours: Mary Patricia Fitzmaurice, 30 Cloondara, Oakpark, Tralee, and Josephine Brigid Ryan, Rosanna Road, Tipperary.

Pass: Elizabeth Mary C. Belton, Colehill, co Longford; Eleanor Mary Browne, Landscape Road, Dublin 14; Helen Patricia Cahill, Harbour Street, Mullingar, co Westmeath; Gerard M. P. S. Cassidy, 50 Aidan Park, Shannon, co Clare; Nora Teresa Collins, Killeagh, co Cork; Mary Catherine Connolly, Halcyon, Sandymount Road, Dublin 14; Edward Cotter, Clonmel Road, Mitchelstown, co Cork; Joseph Martin Crowley, Market Road, Killorglin, co Kerry; Yvonne Mary Faherty, Oughterard, co Galway; Aidan O. Hennelly, Abbeylands, Navan, co Meath; Richard Harold Hoffer, 20 Asgard Park, Howth, co Dublin; Vincent George Kerr, Roseville, Clonakilty, co Cork;

Mary Finola Lordan, Liskeen Leigh, Dunmanway, co Cork.

Vincent Gerard McElwee, Dungloe, co Donegal; Anna Maeve Magee (nee McDonald), Enniskerry, co Wicklow; Elizabeth Magee (nee Bowen), Tully Road, Kildare; Josephine D. Maher, (Mrs Costello), Killarney Road, Castleisland, co Kerry; Rosamary Jacinta Martin, Dublin Road, Dundalk, co Louth; Barbara Ann Mongan, Abindon, Killiney Road, co Dublin; Mary G. G. Mulvihill, Blackrath, The Curragh, co Kildare; Geraldine Mary M. Murphy, 8 Rathdown Park, Dublin 6; Martin Joseph Murphy, Greenfields, Grange Road, Rathfarnham; Matthias John Murphy, Macroom, co Cork; Maurice Anthony Neilan, Abbey Street, Roscommon; Kieran Thomas G. White, Redwood, Castle Gardens, Kilkenny.

Preliminary registration

The following were granted preliminary registration in the pharmaceutical chemists preliminary register recently:—

Anne Marie Bernadette Lucey, 57 Main Street, Mallow, co Cork; Daniel Vincent Francis Morley, 65 Shanis's Road, Santry, Dublin 9; Patrick Joseph Downey, Cloughaleigh, Cashel, co Tipperary; David Leo McKnight, Main Street, Ballymanon, co Longford; Veronica Mary Brennan, 29 St Margarets Road, Malahide, co Dublin; Patrick Martin Peter Walsh, Inistree, Main Street, Carrigaline, co Cork; Peter David Jacob, 22 Lower Beechwood Avenue, Ranelagh, Dublin 6; Charles Paul O'Donnell, Fleets Inn, Downings, co Donegal; Michael Anthony O'Shaughnessy, St Josephs, Thormanby Road, Howth, co Dublin; Gerard Raphael Valentine Carey, Railway Road, Buncrana, Lifford, co Donegal; Richard Woods, 18 Rosehill Mount, Manchester Road, Burnley; Thomas Gerard Ferrie, Lecamey, Lifford, co Donegal.

Thomas Anthony Gray, 17 Kelvin Parade, Belfast 14; Bridget Gray (nee McGlinchey), 17 Kelvin Parade, Belfast 14; Michael Joseph Wade, 4 Sutton Park, Sutton, co Dublin; Peter Gerard Mary Finnegan, 7 Farmhill Road, Roebuck Park, Dublin 14; Mary Anastasia Rackard, Killanne, Enniscorthy, co Wexford; Michael Pius Hickey, El Dorado, Soncroft Avenue, Portmarnock, Dublin; Mary Claire McCarthy, 39 Marlborough Road, Donnybrook, Dublin 4; Michale Regina Brophy, Aurorion, Leixlip Road, Lucan, co Dublin; Siobhan Clare Cunningham, 35 Lucan Heights, Lucan, co Dublin; Marie Antoinette Byrne, 10 St Patrick's Avenue, Rhode, co Offaly; Vera Cadden, Castlehill, Ballina, co Mayo.

Beatrice Mary Daffy, Geraldine, Mill Road, Corbally, Limerick; Deirdre Bridget Campbell, Donaree, 65 Goatstown Road, Clonskea, Dublin 14; Maureen Reidy, 84 Ardevin, Lucan, co Donegal; Christina Lynam (nee McGarvey), 190 Barton Road East, Dundrum, Dublin 14; Jean Margaret McEvoy, Westcliffe, Enniscorthy, co Wexford; Majella Mary Brady, Fortview, Farnham Road, Cavan; Elizabeth Nora Jones, 96 Shandon Park, Philsboro', Dublin 7; Patricia Anastasia Tallent, 28 Parliament Street, Kilkenny; Martina Butler, Emmet Street, Birr, co Offaly; Jeremiah Christopher O'Donovan, 35 Main Street, Skibbereen, co Cork; Ita Frances Burke, Maryville, Union Hall, co Cork; Jacqueline Marian Barrett, 66 Blackheath Park, Clontarf, Dublin 3; Mary De Sales Sheehan, New Street, Newmarket, co Cork; Katherine Mary O'Driscoll, 68 Watercourse Road, Cork; Robert William Duffy, Alencon, Ardfoyle Crescent, Ballintemple, Cork.

Mary Attracta O'Reilly, 97 Tonagh Road, Fintona, co Tyrone; Ann Mary Geraldine Walshe, Grangebeg, Kildare; Mary Lelia Brassill, Latoon, Mewmarket-on-Fergus, co Clare; Veronica Ann Barron, 501 Howth Road, Raheny, Dublin 5; Hau-Man Tam, Doctors Quarters, Shatin Clinic, Shatin, NT Hong Kong; Catherine Barry, Marino Street, Bantry, co Cork; Ellen Mary McCarthy, Kilmurry, Feenagh, Kilmallock, co Limerick; Daniel Francis Matthews, Glenree, Demesne Road, Dundalk, co Louth; John Martin O'Callaghan, The Square, Carlingford, co Louth; Mae Catherine Connolly, Upper Mount Street, Clarendon, co Mayo.

Evelyn Maria Martin, Birr Street, Kilcormac, co Offaly; Michael Brendan Glennon, Monasteroris, Edenderry, co Offaly; Gerard Laurence Cooper, 6 Camberwell Terrace, Antrim Road, Belfast 15; William Gerard Sheehan, 34 Main Street, Killarney, co Kerry; Mary Stuart, 46 Villiers Road, Rathgar, Dublin 6; Anne Patricia Spratt, Clonmore, Ballyhogue, co Wexford; Bernadette Mary Hays, 61 Main Street, Loughrea, co Galway.

Comment

Quick thinking

Although Mallinson House has apparently been burning the midnight oil since the Statutory Committee's Care judgment last week, no decision on the future of the title had emerged as *C & D* went to press. The choice appears to be between the continued use of 'Care' without 'chemist' (an alternative which could renew the argument if the symbol were used on facias or anywhere near 'prescription' signs internally), conjuring with the word 'care' to form a title which is acceptable but still identifiable with the original—or opting for something completely new.

Assuming a new or amended title is proposed, a heavy responsibility lies with the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society to come to a rapid decision on its attitude to it. It should be noted that a full year before the Care launch the NPU had requested that a joint working party should be established with the Ethical Committee or the Council to "develop our thinking along lines mutually acceptable". That idea was turned down by the Committee because it would not commit itself or Council to support or approve an advertising campaign—with the result that the parties have gone their separate ways.

Perhaps it was politic for Council to reserve its position, but if it maintains this approach on the question of a new name for Care it will do retail pharmacy a further disservice. There will be no time for yet more second thoughts, and ICML board pharmacists must have a *reliable* opinion from Council before they commit their members and shareholders to new expense. The time factor is important if the scheme is to capitalise on whatever impact the last year has made.

Behind the times

The new JIC pay scales for retail pharmacy (p 830) are, to say the least, long-awaited. Negotiations have been protracted, and a year ago flared into "confrontation", but the agreement that has resulted seems to take the scales very little nearer to reality.

Should a pharmacist manager in London think in terms of £3,100 a year for running a £60,000-plus pharmacy? Newspaper headlines suggest that the busdrivers will be doing at least as well. How many shop assistant grades will take £13.75 a week at 16 years when the same school-leaver earns half as much again in a London office?

A City & Guilds dispensing assistant is awarded £25.55 a week at 21 years. People of lower educational standard could earn much more as retail management trainees in the multiple stores—and would be on a ladder to highly paid jobs.

The increases on the January 1971 JIC rates vary from about 50 to 100 per cent—but the Guild of Hospital Pharmacists, in its recent successful claim, pointed out that between June 1971 and June 1974 the cost of living rose by 35 per cent.

"London weighting" for pharmacists amounts to £50 a year, against £126 already paid in the hospital service and a claim varying between £200 and £800 by the Guild in respect of "inner" and "outer" areas.

Admittedly the JIC scales are, and are negotiated as, minima. But if they lag too far behind, their *raison d'être* must inevitably be called into question.

Contractors accept 'interim' 4p on the professional fee

The Central NHS Committee has accepted a Department of Health offer to contractors of 4p increase in the professional fee, effective for prescriptions dispensed on or after January 1, 1975. There is no change in the 10½ per cent on-cost.

The Committee stresses that it regards this as an interim award because of the continuing escalation of costs. It will

continue to press its outstanding claims—especially the proprietors' notional salary.

Offered increases in several class 2 dispensing fees were also agreed. These ranged from a doubling of the fees for Controlled Drugs and extemporaneous liquids ordered in multiple containers to 25 per cent or more increases in the "extemporaneously dispensed" rates.

Class 2	Present	New
(a) "extemporaneously dispensed":—cachets, capsules, pills, tablet-triturations, lozenges, pastilles, pessaries, suppositories, enteric coating of tablets etc: liquids prepared with aseptic technique (including eye-drops and eye lotions formulated prior to publication of BPC 1966 Supplement)	42p	54p
individually wrapped powders	60p	75p
(b) "extemporaneous sterilisation":—liquids or solids prepared with BPC '68 sterilisation process	85p	105p
Class 4		
(a) liquids other than at 2 above when extemporaneously prepared and ordered by the prescriber to be supplied in more than one container, each extra quantity ordered	10p	21p
(b) endorsed "CD" by the chemist	5p	10p

Health education constraints

The health educator "does not seem to be doing all that badly" considering the limitations within which he has to work, said Mr A. L. Mackie, director general of the Health Education Council, last week.

He told the Royal Society of Health pharmaceutical group that there were two great constraints: health education would not work until it was seen to work and it would not be seen to work until it worked. Secondly, there was a disparity between the huge resources devoted to therapy — £3,500m for the NHS next year — and the resources devoted to education, perhaps 1 per cent of that amount; and between the pro-health and anti-health pressures on the public, for example £17m for cigarette advertising and about £½m for encouraging them not to smoke.

The media had generated a belief that there was a state of complete physical and mental well being. The job of the educator was "to nudge us into realising that a degree of tolerance of morbidity . . . is wholly acceptable and becoming ever more necessary."

Retail pharmacy JIC scales revised after four years

The National Joint Industrial Council for Retail Pharmacy in England and Wales has published new agreements on pharmacists' and dispensing and shop assistants' wages and conditions of employment.

Hours of work have been reduced to 40, and overtime is to be paid at time-and-a-half rate. Effective January 6, 1975, the new annual salary scales are:—

Pharmacist managers and manageresses:

Average weekly turnover of business £	London £	Provincial £
600- 699	2,650	2,600
700- 799	2,725	2,675
800- 899	2,800	2,750
900- 999	2,875	2,825
1,000-1,099	2,950	2,900
1,100-1,199	3,025	2,975
1,200 and over	3,100	3,050

Pharmacists: First year after registration, London £2,150, provincial £2,100; Second year, London £2,250, provincial £2,200.

Rota payments to pharmacists are to be: weekdays, £1 per hour; Sundays, weekly short days and customary holidays, £2.50 per hour. The annual holiday entitlement is given as: up to 12 months' continuous service, 1 day for each calendar month worked; after 12 months', 3 weeks; after 3 years', 3 weeks and 2 days; after 5 years, 4 weeks.

Dispensing assistants: New definition is "one who is not less than 20 years of age, is wholly or mainly engaged in dispensing, and who

☐ has passed the final examination of the Dispensing Technician's Certificate (738) of the City & Guilds of London Institute, or

☐ on December 31, 1974, had completed not less than three years' continuous experience in pharmacy and was wholly or mainly engaged in dispensing."

Age	London £	Provincial £
20	24.80	24.50
21	25.55	25.25
22	26.30	26.00
23	27.05	26.75
24	27.80	27.50

Shop assistants (there are no longer special rates for porters). Weekly rate:

Age	London £	Provincial 'A' £	Provincial 'B' £
16	13.75	13.50	13.25
17	16.00	15.75	15.50
18	18.25	18.00	17.75
19	19.35	19.10	18.85
20	20.50	20.25	20.00
21	22.75	22.50	22.25

Annual holidays: up to 12 months'

continuous service, 1 day for each calendar month worked; after 12 months' continuous service, 3 weeks; after 3 years' continuous service, 3 weeks and 2 days.

The clause relating to "special relief" has been revised and now reads: "Where any employer covered by this Agreement considers that, owing to special economic, financial and trading difficulties, he is unable to operate, in whole or in part, the scale of wages and/or conditions of employment specified in this Agreement, he may make application for special relief. If such an employer provides an essential pharmaceutical service in a suburban or rural area, and has a combined NHS and counter turnover of less than £600 per week, up to 15 per cent lower rates may be paid. Applications must be submitted to the Secretary of the Employers' Side, specifying the particular difficulties, and after consultation with the Secretary of the Trade Union Side, authority to operate the special relief may be granted for a period not exceeding 12 months."

Licences of right: review could take nine years

The promised review of the 36,000 human medicines holding "licences of right" is expected to take until 1983 to complete, according to Department of Health proposals on the procedure to be adopted, issued this week.

The licences were granted to products on the market on September 1, 1971, and it is now being found that they have an unfair advantage over new products of similar composition which have restrictions placed on them because of scrutiny by the Committee on Safety of Medicines. It is also felt that many products may lack the efficacy claimed for them and that the consumer needs to be protected by scrutiny of such claims.

A start to the review was not possible until a computer record of licences had been made.

It is proposed that all products — whether holding full licences or licences of right — should be divided in thera-

peutic categories, within which their efficacy, safety, labelling and advertising will be considered. Pharmacy questions will also be studied. It is proposed to establish a "Committee on Review of Medicines" (CRM) to advise the Ministers — it will be "fairly large," be drawn from medical and pharmaceutical disciplines, and work through sub-committees appointed for each product category.

Initially there would be three review teams drawn from staff of the Department's medicines division, with one or more categories allotted to each. In addition, a non-statutory review liaison group would be set up to provide consultation with "interested parties." Proposals from the teams would be examined by the CRM subcommittees and recommendations produced as a basis for consultation, following which definitive recommendations would be made public.

Before setting up the CRM, the Ministers are required to consult representative bodies, and their comments are being sought by March 1, 1975. Further information on the proposals may be obtained from the Medicines division, Department of Health and Social Security, Finsbury Square House, 33 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1PP.

Research academy proposed for NHS

The Socialist Medical Association has proposed the formation of an academy of Medical Sciences to control all research and development in the National Health Service. Within such an Academy there would be an associated Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences to perform the same functions for pharmacy.

Mr T. C. Thomas, secretary of the Association's Pharmacy Group, told *C&D* that he had proposed the formation of an Academy in a motion at the SMA's annual meeting recently. The idea was now being actively considered by the SMA working party on the NHS. Mr Thomas added that Dr David Owen, Minister of State, Department of Health, who met a delegation from the Pharmacy Group recently, "thought it an excellent idea."

The Academy was proposed to be an "umbrella" body, responsible to Parliament, to collate, publish and sponsor research work, and keep archives of information on such research. The Association were pressing for the nationalisation of the pharmaceutical industry and retail pharmacy said Mr Thomas, but research would still need to continue in the firms, and an Academy would be a start towards collating research effort. The SMA would shortly publish a working paper on health centres, and were preparing a later one on the future of pharmacy.

To all subscribers and advertisers...

**Chemist
& Druggist**

wishes a Christmas of great happiness and a Prosperous New Year

Councils want to subsidise pharmacies

Some London boroughs are looking into the possibility of subsidising pharmacies which would otherwise be forced out of business by inflation.

Lewisham council is particularly worried about pharmacy closures. Over 500 people signed a petition asking for a pharmacy in Ladywell and the council offered to help interested pharmacists find suitable premises in the area. But a spokesman from the council told *C&D* that the 15 pharmacists who inquired were unable to meet the costs involved. The council is now investigating whether premises could be offered to pharmacists at subsidised rents and negotiations are in progress with other boroughs.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities is investigating the extent to which planning powers could prevent the loss of essential shops. The inquiry, following a request from Camden local borough council, is particularly concerned with areas where businesses are being replaced by luxury trade shops able to afford considerably higher rents. Earlier this year the Association expressed its concern about pharmacy closures to the Department of Health which said there was no evidence that such closures had so far led to widespread difficulties for patients, but they were keeping the rate of closures and their effect on services under review. The Department suggested that where local authorities owned suitable premises which they let for use of a pharmacy, it was for them to decide whether to offer a low rent.

A spokesman for the Association said that one idea being considered was whether planning legislation could be changed to require designation of the type of shop when planning permission was sought. One of the Association's advisers told *C&D* he was reluctant to discuss the report before it was presented to the planning and transportation committee in January 1975, but he hinted that there were several legal difficulties.

Doubts on value of unwanted drugs campaign

"The widely held view that medicine cabinets full of old and forgotten medicines are dangerous may not have a great deal of foundation," writes Mr W. L. Laing, former deputy director, Office of Health Economics, in a book published last week.

In "Benefits and risks in medical care" (Office of Health Economics, 162 Regent Street, London W1R 6DD, £1.50), he says that most accidental poisonings in child-

The Lord Mayor of London, Sir Murray Fox (left), presents the Binney certificate of bravery to Mr Richard Dawe at a ceremony in Goldsmith's Hall last week. A retail pharmacist, Mr Dawe won the award for his bravery during an armed bank robbery (last week, p 810)



ren occurred when substances were used within the past 24 hours. Any campaigns to clear out medicine cabinets might even be counter productive if the medicines were gathered together but not effectively disposed of immediately. He adds that well organised research is the only way to build an accurate profile of the circumstances of child poisoning.

Chemist's 'greed'

The "mercenary attitude" of a pharmacist who has called for a boycott of wholesalers supplying drugs to dispensing doctors has "positively shocked" a writer in a recent *Pulse*: "It ill becomes a pharmacist who likes to consider himself to be a professional person, to express commercial greed in such undisguised tones. Perhaps that will strike every doctor forcibly because there is no doubting our own professional status which means that we have a natural antipathy to avarice."

Rise in the number of dispensing doctors

The number of dispensing doctors practising in England rose by 37 between 1972 and 1973, according to a report published last week.

The report — Health and Personal Social Services Statistics for England 1974 (HM Stationery Office, £3) — shows that the total of dispensing doctors rose from 2,409 in 1972 to 2,446 in 1973. The largest increase (12) was in the South East followed by East Anglia (up 10). Only one region, the East Midlands, showed a fall in the number of dispensing doctors — in that case a reduction of three. Overall, there had been a rise in the numbers each year since 1969 (2,322), and more dispensing doctors were choosing to be paid on Drug Tariff rates (up 135 to 1,779) rather than by capitation fees.

The number of whole-time equivalents of hospital pharmacists in England in 1973 was 71 lower, at 1,671, than in 1972, but that figure was still greater than the 1971 total of 1,647. Pharmacy technician whole-time equivalents increased from 1,254 in 1972 to 1,298 last year. The costs of drugs and dressings to regional hospital boards and boards of governors in the year ended March, 1973, were £34.7m and £8.1m respectively. Some 20.3 per cent of retail pharmacies

Irish pharmacists sign withdrawal notices

Proprietor pharmacists in Ireland are currently signing notices of their intent to withdraw from the General Medical Services dispensing scheme following the Minister for Health's decision not to negotiate on the Irish Pharmaceutical Union's claim for a rise in the dispensing fee from £0.20 to £0.78 an item (*C&D*, October 12, p 531).

Mr G. Ledwith, the Union's secretary, told *C&D* that the decision to serve the notices of withdrawal, taken at the annual meeting (*C&D*, December 7, p 782), had now been endorsed by the Union's National Executive. The notices would be served in January and be effective after about three months, depending upon whether the Minister made moves to resolve the dispute. The Union had not had a direct reaction from the Minister over the pharmacists' threatened action.

in Great Britain dispensed between 12,000 and 17,999 prescriptions a year in 1972, compared to 21.7 per cent in 1971 and 22.1 per cent in 1970. In the 18,000-23,999 group, the proportion fell from 19.5 per cent in 1971 to 19.4 in 1972, but the 24-29,999 group proportion rose in the same period from 14.3 per cent to 15.5. Some 28 pharmacies dispensed 120,000 and over prescriptions in 1972 compared to 20 in 1971, and 306 pharmacies dispensed less than 6,000 prescriptions in 1972 (345 in 1971).

As stated in the Department of Health's annual report for 1973 (*C&D* August 10, p 174), prescriptions dispensed in England during 1973 totalled 264m at a cost of £279m — £0.882 per prescription. The new report gives 80.1 per cent as the proportion of such prescriptions for proprietary preparations, 17.3 per cent for non-proprietary drugs and 2.6 per cent for dressings, appliances and hosiery. Preparations acting on the nervous system was the largest single group of drugs in terms of both number of prescriptions and total net ingredient cost.

□ A separate Welsh document—Health and Personal Social Services Statistics for Wales No 1 1974—has also been published (HM Stationery Office £2.15).

Remuneration rose 16.67% in a year

Chemists' remuneration is estimated to have increased by 16.67 per cent between 1973 and 1974, the Central NHS (Chemist Contractors) Committee was told at its last meeting. The higher level results from higher on-cost income due to rising net ingredient costs and a further increase in prescription numbers. Figures are:—

	1973	1974 (Estimated)
	£m	£m
Professional fees	47.9	49.8
On-cost	19.3	22.8
Lump sum payment (December, 1974)	—	5.8
Total	67.2	78.4

Because of the problems involved in the obtaining and supplying of colostomy/ileostomy apparatus and parts, it was decided that the Department should be pressed for a class one fee (at present 17p) for each complete and each part of colostomy/ileostomy apparatus supplied and that the provisions of clause 7 (3)(c) of part II of the Drug Tariff—the "broken bulk" clause—be amended to cover this type of prescription.

A letter has been received from the Department of Health suggesting that, as there had been an improvement in the general position regarding the availability of different pack sizes, the common pack procedure for the pricing of prescriptions should be reintroduced. The Committee could not accept that the general position had, in fact, improved and decided that the Department should be pressed to continue the present special arrangement.

Speeding up payment

It was reported that the following resolution had been received from the Welsh Chemist Contractors Committee: "That the Central NHS (Chemist Contractors) Committee be asked to press the Department of Health to make the necessary arrangements to ensure that the monies due to chemist contractors are in the hands of the chemist contractors on the first working day of the month." Although representations on this matter were already under consideration by the Department it was decided that the Department be informed of the resolution and pressed to take the necessary action to implement it. Under the present procedure the monies are dispatched from the Family Practitioner Committee offices on the first working day of the month which can cause delay, especially when the first day of the month does not fall on a Monday to Thursday, or is a bank holiday.

Dr T. D. Whittet, chief pharmacist, Department of Health, signs the roll of honour after receiving the honorary degree of doctor of science of the University of Aston, Birmingham on December 7. On the right is Mr G. K. W. Arkieson, registrar and secretary of the university



The Committee agreed to support representations from the Ealing, Hammer-smith and Hounslow Area Chemist Contractors Committee about the pack sizes used by the Prescription Pricing Authority as the basis of payment. Objection was

taken to the fact that prescriptions on forms EC 10/FP 10 (HP) issued by hospitals are included by the Pricing Bureau in calculating overall demand. Such prescriptions were generally outside the normal run of dispensing in an area.

Further details of new contract proposals

Further details of the proposed revision of chemists' NHS contract have now been published by the Central Contractors Committee (see *C&D*, November 9, p 658).

The figures are regarded as "for illustration only" and will be revised to take account of additional monies becoming due through negotiations with the Department of Health.

It is proposed that NHS remuneration shall be payable on the following basis to be incorporated in Part II of the Drug Tariff:

(i) A "basic practice allowance" on a scale commencing at £nil for pharmacies dispensing less than 3,000 NHS prescriptions per annum and rising to £4,000 per annum for pharmacies dispensing not less than 75,000 prescriptions per annum. (Details in the appendix.) The basic practice allowance has been restricted in the lower dispensing volume scales (ie 0-8,999 prescriptions per annum) in order to discourage the opening of pharmacies which are not essential to the provision of a general pharmaceutical service. Essential pharmacies with low dispensing volumes are provided for under the small pharmacies scheme — see (vi).

The intention of this allowance is to reimburse to contractors a proportion of their overhead costs (excluding staff) on a fixed scale basis and to reduce their dependence on a given volume of dispensing to recover their costs. Thus, the risk of loss due to factors outside the contractor's control (ie movement of doctors into group practices or health centres) is reduced.

(ii) A "premises allowance" equal to the NHS turnover percentage of the total turnover of the pharmacy applied to the annual rent and rates. In respect of the freehold premises, a notional rent would be determined by the district valuer for reimbursement on a similar basis. The introduction of a premises allowance on this basis will achieve equity between pharmacies in relation to high and low property costs and dispensing volumes.

(iii) An "ancillary and locum

allowance" on a scale commencing at £250 per annum for pharmacies dispensing less than 3,000 NHS prescriptions per annum and rising to £4,000 per annum for pharmacies dispensing not less than 75,000 prescriptions per annum. (Details in the appendix.) This allowance is intended to reimburse to contractors a proportion of their staff employment costs on a fixed scale basis and is similar in principle to the basic practice allowance.

(iv) A professional fee per prescription.

(v) An on-cost expressed as a percentage of net ingredient cost.

(vi) Under the small pharmacies scheme: (a) Additional payments to essential pharmacies not receiving the minimum net income from NHS dispensing per the following scale:—

Prescriptions Dispensed Annually	Minimum Net Income
0- 8,999	£2,750
9,000-11,999	£3,000
12,000-14,999	£3,250
15,000-17,999	£3,500
18,000-20,999	£3,750
21,000-24,000	£4,000

The scale will be reviewed following agreement of the 1975 proprietors' notional salary.

(b) An "initial practice allowance" of £1,500.

Details of the small pharmacies scheme have already been circulated (for the scheme as put to ACC's in March see *C&D*, March 23, p 332). It is proposed that the scheme be incorporated in the new contract to guarantee a minimum net income from NHS dispensing for those pharmacies satisfying the criteria stated for designation as "essential".

(vii) All other Drug Tariff scales to remain unaltered but subject to upward revision from time to time to reflect the settlement of claims; additionally to introduce a new scale related to the reimbursement of postgraduate student salary costs to the individual contractor employing such a student.

NHS remuneration would continue to be paid on the "balance sheet" concept of remuneration but on the basis set out above. In the "balance sheet" system the amount paid to contractors is based on calculations of the amount due, ie wage and salary costs, including the proprietors' notional salary, and all other overhead costs to which is added a negotiated profit margin. It is the intention of the Committee to negotiate substantial changes in the principles applied to the calculation of the amount due to contractors in order to increase the global sum available for payment under the new contract.

Appendix: NHS remuneration. Proposed detailed scales for allowances (£)

Prescriptions per annum	Basic practice	Ancillary and locum
0- 2,999	Nil	250
3,000- 5,999	250	350
6,000- 6,999	500	450
7,000- 7,999	750	550
8,000- 8,999	1,000	650
9,000-11,999	1,250	750
12,000-14,999	1,250	1,000
15,000-17,999	1,500	1,250
18,000-20,999	1,500	1,500
21,000-23,999	1,750	1,750
24,000-26,999	1,750	2,000
27,000-29,999	2,000	2,250
30,000-39,999	2,250	2,500
40,000-49,999	2,500	3,000
50,000-74,999	3,000	3,500
75,000 & over	4,000	4,000

STV on trial

The effect of the single transferable vote system on the composition of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society should be reviewed after three elections had been held, the Council decided at its December meeting.

It was agreed, in principle, that no objection would be taken to a pharmacist being employed by a dispensing doctor providing that the pharmacist did not own a retail pharmacy in the area. However, it was also agreed there was no need to amend the paragraph in the Statement upon Matters of Professional Conduct precluding financial or professional business association between pharmacists and doctors.

A letter is to be sent to the Department of Health re-emphasising the Society's view that pharmacists serving on NHS advisory committees should be adequately reimbursed for necessary expenses.

The registrar, Mr D. Lewis, reported receipt of a letter from the registrar of the Pharmacy Board of New South Wales notifying an amendment to the New South Wales Pharmacy Act 1964 and Regulations which affected all pharmacy graduates with British and Irish qualifications. From a date to be determined, graduates desiring to become registered in New South Wales and who held qualifications set out in a list accompanying the letter would be required to complete successfully an examination in pharmacy law, and to undertake employment of one month under the supervision of a registered pharmacist in a retail or hospital pharmacy.

Topical reflections

BY XRAYSER

A misfire

It seems a pity that, in face of the Pharmaceutical Society's expressed disapproval over the methods by which Independent Chemists Marketing Ltd proposed to launch their scheme, the company decided to go ahead. Misgiving was not confined to the official body as such, for there was considerable opposition displayed in the correspondence columns of the Press. And, moreover, there was not an overwhelming measure of support from the membership of the NPU itself, of whom less than one third joined the Care scheme. That would suggest that a very considerable majority must have had reservations about it, for one reason or another. There were those who were made uneasy by the use of a restricted title in relation to advertising. That title means more to a profession than seems to have been appreciated by the Care sponsors. One feels that the action taken was hasty and that it lacked dignity as well as foresight.

I am not at all sure that an alternative name and symbol is likely to be the answer to the present position, for the initial enthusiasm for the scheme was rather less than wholehearted. In the same issue in which you publish the Committee's decision, there is a paragraph relating to price-cutting in general. A survey has been carried out by Harris International Marketing, and their findings are of great interest. The report reveals that the practice tends to antagonise housewives who prefer brands to remain at predictable prices, and that they are not as pre-occupied with price-cuts as the media tend to believe. The fact is that the public does not know the price of anything and it had a better deal with what the Harris report refers to as "predictable prices". It is to be hoped that no precipitate action will be taken and that pharmacists will jealously safeguard the privileges conferred by qualification and restricted titles.

News in brief

□ The Society for Analytical Chemistry is to fully amalgamate with the Chemical Society on January 1, 1975.

□ Two men have been remanded on a charge of stealing a cabinet containing strychnine, morphine and cocaine from Savory & Moore Ltd, Mildenhall, Suffolk (*C&D*, October 19, p548).

□ "Metrication and the retail trade", a report on the general use of metric weights and measures in retailing, is available free from the Metrication Board, 22 Kingsway, London WC2B 6LE.

□ The revised Price Code (HM Stationery Office, £0.34) was published on Wednesday as *C&D* went to Press. A new subparagraph exempts from control payment for Part IV NHS services (see *C&D*, November 16, p 687).

□ The provisional estimate of the seasonally adjusted index of the volume of retail sales in November is 112 (1971 = 100), similar to the previous three months. Based on non-seasonally adjusted data, the provisional estimate of the value of retail sales in November shows a rise of 19 per cent compared with November last year.

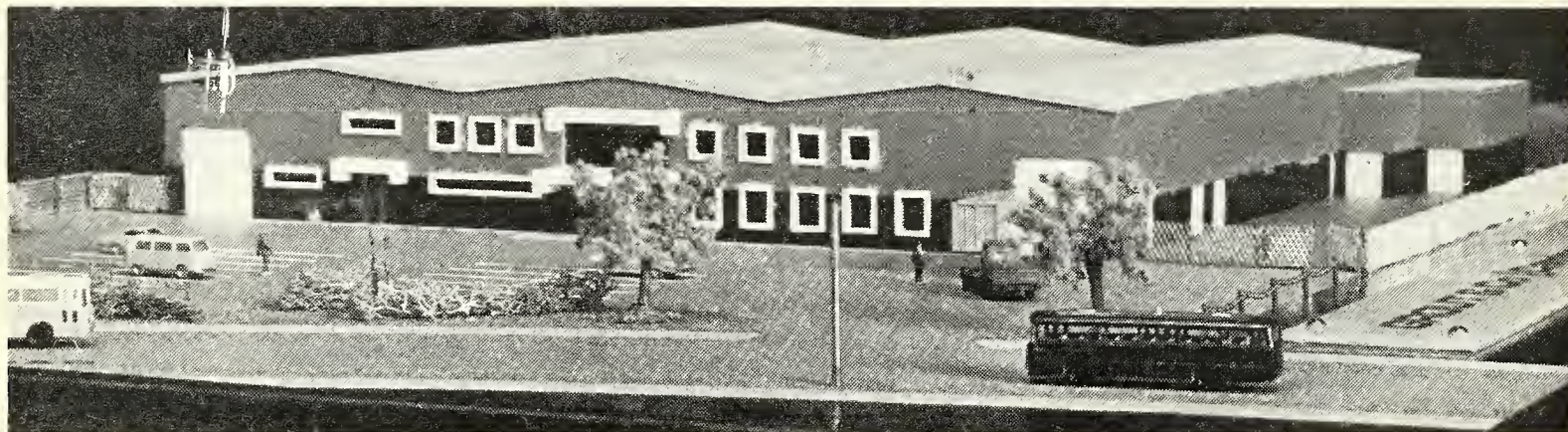
□ There was a net loss to the Pharmaceutical Society's register of nine phar-

macies in November. One closed down in London, 23 in the rest of England, and one each in Scotland and Wales; four of the newly-registered premises were in London, 10 in the rest of England, one in Scotland and two in Wales.

□ Some 100,000 workers covered by the Multiple Grocery Trade Agreement are due to receive rises of about £2.60 on their current standard week's pay and the consolidation of £4.40 a week threshold payments into their basic pay under a new agreement, according to the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers. The agreement, backdated to November 11, will raise the pay of the lowest-graded woman shop assistant to £25.80 for a 40 hour week.

□ The Scottish Home and Health Department has published revised allowances for pharmacists undergoing approved postgraduate courses. For overnight absence covering a period of up to 24 hours on or after August 1, 1974, the allowance will be the actual expenses up to a maximum of £10.46 for courses within four miles of Charing Cross, London, £9.41 elsewhere, and day subsistence allowances are now £0.73 for absence from home for 5-8 hours and £1.53 for absence of more than 8 hours. The revised mileage allowance for own car use is 2.8p a mile from July 15, 1974 and 2.9p a mile from October 1, 1974.

The House that Grouts Built



A ground-level view of the model of the new Grout's factory now under construction at Harfrey's Industrial Estate

To new estate from historic site

St. Nicholas' Road will seem odd without Grouts. After all, the factory has been there a great many years, for it was as long ago as 1814 that the brothers Joseph and George Grout set up their business at Great Yarmouth on that self-same site. Previously, it had been a military barracks and many of the original buildings were incorporated into the factory complex. The carpenter's shop, for instance, was once the Naval Hospital and in 1797, after Duncan's great victory at Camperdown, Nelson himself had visited the wounded there. He came again in 1801 after the Battle of Copenhagen and not only chatted with the wounded, but presented every nurse with a golden guinea. In 1832, however, old and new buildings alike were destroyed by fire and the factory rebuilt on a much larger scale.

ACCENT ON MAN-MADE FIBRES

The post-war years, with their accent on man-made fibres, found the company not unprepared and its new fabrics were held in the highest esteem. In 1962, following a further contraction in world trade and a national rationalisation of the textile industry, Grout & Co. was absorbed by Carrington & Dewhurst who, in 1970 merged with Viyella and in

consequence formed Carrington Viyella Ltd., one of the largest textile manufacturers in Europe.

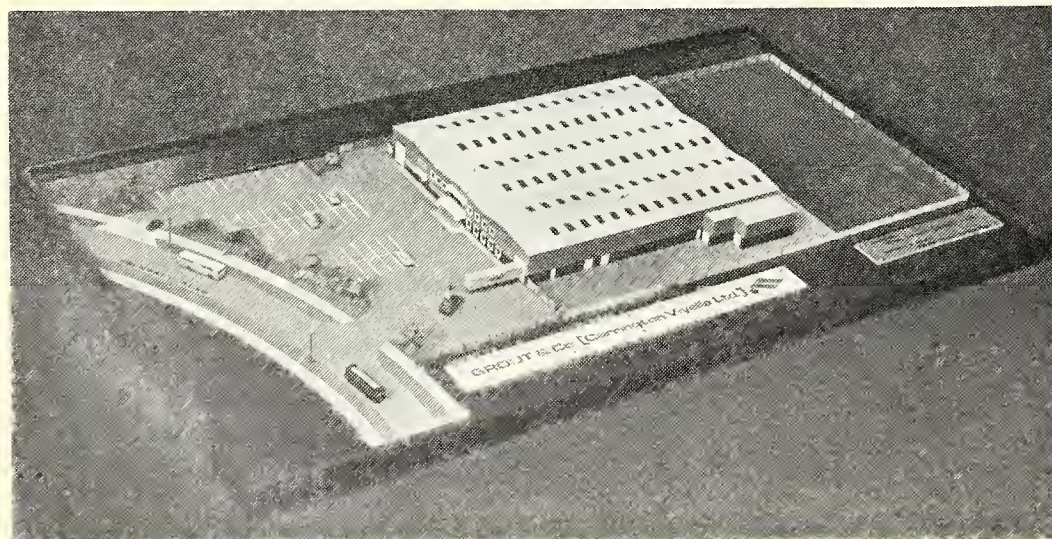
With the vast resources of the parent company, even greater emphasis was placed on technical research and out-dated equipment was replaced by the most sophisticated of modern machinery, so that by pursuing this forward-looking

and quality conscious policy, the company has continued to find outlets for its crepe bandages. Now the time has come for more changes, modern buildings, new machinery, better staff facilities — an expansion inconceivable a few years ago — and Grout & Co. are to move from the premises they have occupied for so long to a new factory on the Harfrey's Industrial Estate. The new plant has been designed by the Ronald Toone Partnership, of 23, South Quay, and is to be built by Great Yarmouth (Boack) Limited, developers of the estate and a subsidiary of the Midlands-based Blackburn Group. The sale was negotiated by John Howard & Partners who act as sole agents for Harfreys Industrial Estate.

It will stand on a two-acre site and cover a total of 31,140 sq. ft. and will have production and engineering workshops with an administrative section of some 4,000 sq. ft. Staff will have their own canteen and those on the shop floor will enjoy the comforts of full central heating and ventilation, plus the safety of a modern sprinkler system. Parking for over 40 cars will be provided and the company have not overlooked the probability of expansion in allowing for at least one-third of the site for future development.

The step has not been taken lightly and will prove another surge forward in the triumphant march of progress made possible by the enterprise of management and the inherent skill of the workforce.

This had not been the Grout brothers' first venture in the world of textiles, for towards the end of the 18th-century they began trading in Patterson's Yard, off Magdalen Street, in Norwich. Here they manufactured mourning crepe, better known perhaps as "widows' weeds," consisting of a thin silk gauze, richly embossed with a variety of patterns and motifs. The Grouts, like so many engaged in Norwich's textile trade, were Huguenot refugees who had fled from the religious persecution of the Low Countries, but they themselves were saddlers and harness-makers and had originally settled at Bocking, in Essex, before making the move to Norfolk.



Left: An overhead view of the model of the factory

Advertiser's Announcement

Textiles at this time were the country's main export, silk was protected, Norwich was booming and the Grouts shared in the general prosperity. So much so that in 1814, in addition to the Yarmouth factory, they built another in Norwich at Lower Westwick and then a few years later, opened a third in Bungay.

GREAT EXPANSION

Riding on the crest of this wave and with nothing to fear from the increased competition from Lancashire, Grouts were soon acknowledged the most important firm in the Norfolk silk industry. This was a period of great expansion. Many more mills were built — in Mildenhall, Saffron Walden, Bocking, Ditchingham, Sible Headinham — and some as far away as Frome, Ponders End, Paisley and Glasgow. It was about this time, too, that the company, its eyes fixed steadfastly on ever-increasing world sales, set up a reeling establishment at Bauleah, some 140 miles up country from Calcutta and acquired warehouse and office space in the heart of London. But the hey-day of the industry had been reached and by 1890 Grouts had rationalised their activities and concentrated the manufacture of crepe in the Great Yarmouth factory. Despite this drastic reduction in output, the affairs of the company remained in a parlous state for the next few years, as the market for crepe continued to decline and finally to collapse. Then, in 1894, Grout & Co. became a limited liability company with R. H. Inglis Palgrave as chairman, William E. Hall as managing director and a number of prominent local citizens, including James Hurry Palmer and Frank Arnold, on the board. It was a turning point in the affairs of the company, for helped by this injection of fresh capital, the company switched into the manufacture of silk textiles and fabrics made from mixtures of silk and wool and silk and cotton. These new products were aggressively marketed and in a short time the company gained a world-wide reputation and the name Grout became synonymous with quality.

TIME CHECK

One link with tradition was retained — a hangover from the days when the factory buildings were far more isolated. A nightwatchman with a dog had been employed to patrol the factory and ensure that it was safe from thieves and prowlers ever since 1814. Had he received unwelcome visitors, there was little in fact that the nightwatchman could have done, so at 10 p.m. precisely he fired a muzzle-loading shotgun (still in the company's possession) to assure the owners and the town at large that all was well. It did nobody any harm, apart from startling a few strangers and until the end of the first world war, provided everyone with checks for their clocks and watches in those pre-Greenwich time signal days.

Crepe Bandage Market Leaders

It was in 1920 that the company first began to make crepe bandages and then after extensive research, developed the Norvic and Vic qualities manufactured in their entirety without use of rubber threads. These bandages were extensively recommended by the medical profession for the cure of varicose veins and where general support was needed for the treatment of sprains and strains. They soon became market leaders. The company, too, had begun to realise the value of good staff relations and by now much more emphasis was being placed on the provision of

social amenities and the welfare of the employees.

WAR EFFORT

At the outbreak of the second world war, Grout & Co. were heavily engaged in the manufacture of parachutes, then made entirely from silk. The silk-producing countries of the world, however, were soon overrun by the enemy and the company then played no small part in perfecting those techniques which made possible the production of a new fabric made from nylon yet eminently suitable for parachutes.



The Mayor of Great Yarmouth (Councillor J. M. Bishop) is seen here handing back plans of the new Grout & Co. factory to Mr. Norman Gooch, Managing Director. Also in the photograph are, from left, Mr. B. Craddock, Chairman of Great Yarmouth (Boack) Ltd., Mr. Laurie Smith, Principal Assistant of the Ronald Toone Partner-

ship, Mr. J. H. Howard and Mr. David Cunliffe, Managing Director of Carrington Viyella Menswear Division. The Mayor, when returning plans of the new Grouts', said: "I am sure the town will be happy to know that Grout & Co. are continuing a very long association with Great Yarmouth and I wish everybody concerned in the venture success."

WORLDWIDE EXPORTS

Over many years Grout and Company have built up their overseas trade into a very large operation. As well as supplying the majority of Regional Health Authorities within our own National Health Service the Company have contracts with the principal national wholesale houses who in turn supply the retail trade.

Countries to which the finished products are dispatched from Great Yarmouth include Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa, and the Caribbean countries. Scandinavia and South-East Asia are also supplied to a very large extent. The Company is represented by Agents in many countries throughout the world.

GROUT & COMPANY, GT. YARMOUTH

(Branch of CV Menswear Ltd.)

A member of the Carrington Viyella Group

Trade News

Makers launch 'Bonus Money' points scheme

Chemists and grocers are being invited to participate in a new incentive scheme for consumers jointly organised by sixteen major manufacturers. The scheme — Bonus Money — goes into test market in the Yorkshire Television area on January 1, 1975.

The consumer has to collect Bonus Money points from packs and redeem them, and will receive £1.05 for every 1,500 points she collects. She can effectively reclaim 1p on every 30p she spends on Bonus Money products. The chemist is asked only to accept Bonus Money packs instead of the normal packs of the products he already sells. The Bonus Money packs are priced to the trade at normal prices and handling is direct from the consumer to A. C. Nielsen Co.

Manufacturers participating in the venture are: Cadbury-Typhoo, Colman Foods, Courage, Green Giant, Kimberly-Clark, Lever Brothers, Lilia-White, McVitie Cadbury, Pedigree Petfoods, James Robertson & Sons, Smiths Food Group, Spillers Foods, Trebor Sharps, United Biscuits, Van Den Berghs and Wander.

The programme is being supported by heavy television and local Press advertising, representing national equivalent expenditure of over £350,000. A "teaser" campaign featuring television personality Barbara Kelly has started in major Yorkshire newspapers, such as *Sheffield Star* and *Yorkshire Post*, in December. The main burst of full-page Press advertisements will run throughout January and February, further supported by 35 commercials on Yorkshire Television from January to May.

A leaflet drop into 1.4 million Yorkshire homes, telling housewives about the scheme and giving them 500 free Bonus Money points (worth 35p), will add further impact.

The manufacturers have made it clear to the trade that Bonus Money is a long-term investment programme and is additional to normal promotion.

The Yorkshire test market is expected to last at least 12 months because, based on US experience of a similar programme, now expanded nationally, it will take at least that time to get accurate readings of the consumer acceptance of the scheme.

Floxapen syrup change

Beecham Research Laboratories, Brentford, Middlesex, have introduced a new fruit flavoured formulation of Floxapen syrup which will replace the present aniseed flavoured one as soon as stocks are exhausted. The new formulation is reconstituted by adding 60ml water, not 75ml as before.

ICI petrochemicals names

All nonionic surfactants marketed by the petrochemicals division of ICI will be sold under the trade mark Synperonic from January 1, 1975. The products include several previously marketed under other names: Synperonic NX (formerly Lissapol NX), Synperonic NP10 (formerly nonylphenol 10EO) and Synperonic A3 (formerly Synperonic 3). A wall chart detailing the full range is available from marketing department, petrochemicals division, Imperial Chemical Industries, Wilton, Cleveland.

Fabergé New Year offers

Products from both the men's and women's ranges are to be offered at reduced prices from January 1, by Fabergé Inc, Ridgeway, Iver, Bucks.

For men, the regular (97cc) size of Brut lotion, normally £2.50, is being offered for £1.99 and the regular (60cc) size of Faberé West lotion, normally £1.45, is being offered for £1.20.

For women, Kiku hand and body lotion is being produced in a large, 460cc, size at £1.25; 2oz sprays of Tigress and Aphrodisia Colognes are offered at £1.16; and a trial size, 1oz Xanadu Cologne, has been produced to retail at £0.90.

Free spice jar labels

Nivea Toiletries Ltd, Surbiton, Surrey, are giving 12 spice jar labels free on the 52-g size pot of Atrix hand cream. The labels are gold with clearly printed spice titles and are self-adhesive. With the labels is an offer to buy a mahogany spice rack holding six jars of assorted herbs and spices at a reduced price of £2.10—instead of normal selling price of £3.60. The offer will begin in January.

Diagnostic for low fibrinogen

Thrombin diagnostic is a freeze-dried preparation from bovine plasma for use in diagnosis of hypofibrinogenaemia. Made by Speywood Laboratories Ltd, Easthorpe House, Loughborough Road, Ruddington, Nottingham NG11 6LM, the preparation is available as 50 NIH units (6 ampoules plus 6 ampoules 1ml sterile saline diluent, £2.84) and 200 NIH units (2 ampoules plus 2 ampoules 10ml diluent, £2.84).

Andrews on Capital

Sterling Health Products, Surbiton, Surrey, are currently running a campaign for Andrews Liver Salt on Capital Radio. The campaign, which runs for 10 weeks, consists of 6 different 30-second commercials, each with a humorous theme. The campaign is aimed at ages 15-34.

Nutriplan extends range

Smith & Nephew Ltd, Bessemer Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, makers of Nutriplan, have added another flavour to their range of low-calorie soups, thick pea (3 sachets, £0.41). Two more flavours, apple and apricot, (£0.35) have been added to the mixed cereal with fruit and nuts range.

Lightweight bottles

Glints of London Ltd, 4 Oakfield Street, London SW10 9JB, have produced a new lightweight bottle for their nail varnish remover. The bottle is made in a resistant polythene that is "secure and will not

shatter". The nail varnish remover comes in two sizes — a flat handbag size (30cc £0.15), and economy size (110cc £0.32).

Contac on television

A three-month television campaign for Contac 400 starts on December 23 in the London area. Menley & James Laboratories Ltd, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, are also running a national Press campaign featuring advertisements in the *Daily Mail*, *Daily Express* and *Sunday People*.

Vestric national promotions

National promotions for January by Vestric Ltd, Chapel Street, Runcorn, Ches WA7 5AP, will include the following products: Minadex; Vosene shampoo; Amami setting lotion; Elastoplast fabric and Airstrip; Airwick solid; Paddi Pads; Supersoft shampoo; Johnson's baby powder; and Pretty Polly Stand Easies.

More Christmas holiday closures

Beecham Ethical Distributors* Brentford, Middlesex, will close from Tuesday, December 24 until Monday, December 30, and also January 1.

Bristol Laboratories*, division of Bristol-Myers Ltd, Stamford House, Langley, Slough SL3 6EB, will close from midday Tuesday, December 24 until Saturday, December 28, and also January 1.

Ciba Laboratories, Horsham, Sussex RH12 4AB, will close from Tuesday, December 24, to Monday, December 30.

Eli Lilly & Co Ltd, Kinsclere Road, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2XA, will close from Tuesday, December 24, until Thursday, January 2.

Geigy Pharmaceuticals, Hurdsfield Industrial Estate, Macclesfield, Ches SK10 2LY, will close from Monday, December 23 until Friday, December 27, and also January 1.

Northern Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Galen House, Gratten Road, Bradford, BD1 2PQ, will close from 1 pm Tuesday, December 24 until Friday, December 27, and also January 1.

Parke-Davis & Co*, Usk Road, Pontypool, Gwent NP4 8YH, will close from Friday, December 27, until Thursday, January 2.

Paines & Byrne Ltd, Bilton Road, Greenford, Middlesex, will close from end of business Friday, December 20, until start of business January 2, but telephone orders will be accepted 9am-1pm, December 23, 30, 31.

Radiol Chemicals Ltd, Stepfield, Witham, Essex CM8 3AG, will close from end of business Friday, December 20 until start of business January 1.

Roche Products Ltd, PO Box 8, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL7 3AY will close from Tuesday, December 24, to January 2.

Sandoz Products Ltd* and Wander Ltd order office, PO Box Horsforth No. 4, Calverley Lane, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 4RP, will close from December 23 until January 2.

Upjohn Ltd*, Fleming Way, Crawley, Sussex, will close from Tuesday, December 24, until Friday, December 27, and also January 1.

*Urgent orders: John Bell & Croyden, 50 Wigmore Street, London W1.

Updated label

The Dabitoft label has been updated. The new eye catching design retains the previous colour scheme of red and yellow. A stain removal chart is available from the makers, Eucryl Ltd, Oakley Road, Southampton.

Casablanca is number three

Casablanca aftershave, on launch in the London area, has become the third most popular brand according to the makers, Unicliffe Ltd, Wellington House, 6 Upper St Martin's Lane, London WC2.

Eire sunglass agents

New agents and distributors for Solarite/Pol-rama sunglass range by Lessar Brothers Ltd, Hylton Street, Birmingham B18 6HW, for the Irish Republic are E. J. Bodkin & Co Ltd, 14 Usher Street, Dublin 8 (tel Dublin 782926), from January 1, 1975.

Zorbit goes into Boots

Zorbit baby wipes, introduced by Fresh-tex, 91 Bolsover Street, London W1, in September into pharmacies are now available from Boots.

Correction

The two variants to Brush-On-Peel-Off mask introduced by Helena Rubinstein Ltd, 31 Davies Street, London W1Y 1FN are priced £1.91.

on TV next week

Ln — London; M — Midland; Lc — Lancashire; Y — Yorkshire; Sc — Scotland; WW — Wales and West; So — South; NE — North-east; A — Anglia; U — Ulster; We — Westward; B — Border; G — Grampian; E — Eireann; CI — Channel Islands.

Alka Seltzer: All areas

Aquafresh: All areas

Beecham Powders range: WW, We, CI

Beecham Powders & Hot Lemon: All except WW, We, E, CI

Bright & Beautiful tissues: All areas

Buttercup syrup: M, Lc, Y, NE, B

Fisherman's Friend lozenges: Ln, Sc, So, NE, A

Galloways: Ln, So, A

Grecian 2000: All except U

Harmony hairspray: All areas

Mentho Lyptus: All except E

Ralgex: All except U, G, E, CI

Signal: All areas

Week commencing December 30

Alka Seltzer: All areas

Aquafresh: All areas

Beecham Powders range: WW, We, CI

Beecham Powders & Hot Lemon: All except WW, We, E, CI

Bright & Beautiful tissues: All areas

British Cod Liver Oils: M, Lc, NE

Buttercup syrup: M, Lc, Y, NE, B

Complan: All areas

Fisherman's Friend lozenges: Ln, Sc, So, NE, A

Galloways: Ln, So, A

Grecian 2000: All except U

Mentho Lyptus: All except E

Ralgex: All except U, G, E, CI

New products

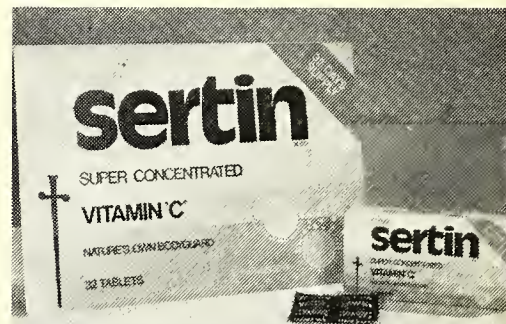
Spanish range in the UK

A new range of nail-care products, said to be the brand leader in Spain, has been launched in the UK. Called Henryette, the range consists of nail varnishes in both plain (£0.55) and pearl (£0.66) finish. There is also a nail hardener (£0.60), a base coat (£0.40), cuticle remover (£0.45) and a 110 ml varnish remover (£0.40). There are two display stands available for the range which is available now, and demand is expected for the new year when the range is to be featured in the Universal Beauty Club (Keldaw Products Ltd, 594 Uxbridge Road, Hayes, Middlesex).

Sertin on test launch

Reckitt & Colman have recently introduced an effervescent vitamin C tablet into the London television area. Called Sertin, each tablet contains 250mg of ascorbic acid and is presented foil-wrapped in packs of 32 tablets (£0.40). Although effervescent, Sertin may be taken without water.

A television campaign featuring the



product will break in the London area January 3, followed by Press and magazine coverage in February (Reckitt & Colman pharmaceutical division, Dansom Lane, Hull HU8 7DS).

Prescription specialities

AMINOFUSIN L600 and L1000

Manufacturer Cambrian Chemicals Ltd (pharmaceutical division), Suffolk House, George Street, Croydon CR9 3QL

Description Sterile pyrogen free solution containing L-amino acids 50g/litre, carbohydrates as sorbitol 100g/litre (L1000 contains additional ethanol 50g), vitamins and electrolytes. Total N, 8.81 g/litre; kcal/litre, 600 and 1000 respectively. See literature

Indications For intravenous parenteral nutrition whenever oral feeding is impossible or inadequate

Contraindications Shock, coma or anuria

Dosage According to individual requirements. *Adults*—0.8-1.6g amino acids/kg bodyweight daily. *Children, pregnant women and post-operative patients*—1.6-2g amino acids/kg daily. *Newborn and premature infants*—2-3g amino acids/kg daily. See literature

Precautions Care in patients who tend towards elevated serum potassium or urea levels. Solution should be clear before infusion. Addition of drugs should be avoided

Storage Between 5-25°C, away from light
Packs 500ml glass bottles (L600, £3.75 trade; L1000, £4), 10 bottles per case

Supply restrictions Hospitals only

Issued December 1974

ARVIN

Manufacturer Berk Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Station Road, Shalford, Guildford, Surrey

Description Sterile, clear, colourless, aqueous solution containing anecrod 70 Twyford units per ml in isotonic saline, pH 6.8, phosphate content about 0.0025M, chlorbutol about 0.0075 per cent

Indications Deep vein, central retinal and branch vein thromboses; priapism; pulmonary hypertension of embolic origin; embolism after insertion of prosthetic cardiac valves; re-thrombosis after thrombolytic therapy and vascular surgery

Contraindications Severe infections and diffuse intravascular coagulation. Pregnancy. Gastro-intestinal lesions liable to bleed. Haematological defects. Concurrent use of ulcerogenic drugs and drugs blocking the reticulo-endothelial system or physiological lytic system. Coronary thrombosis

Dosage *Induction* — 2 to 3 units/kg bodyweight in 50-500ml sodium chloride by intravenous infusion over 4-12 hours (usually 6-8 hours). *Maintenance*—2 units/kg bodyweight in 10-50ml sodium chloride by slow intravenous injections every 12 hours or by infusion. See literature

Precautions See literature

Side effects Skin rash, minor bleeding and oozing. Haemorrhage may be reversed by specific antidote prepared by the Lister Institute. See literature

Storage Under refrigeration (4-10°C). Do not freeze

Packs 4 x 1ml ampoules (£34 trade)

Supply restrictions Hospitals only

Issued December 1974

Statutory Committee

Three told 'appear or risk striking off'

Three pharmacists failed to appear before the Statutory Committee last week. In each case the hearing was adjourned until January 1975 with a warning from the chairman, Sir Gordon Willmer, that the Committee was inclined to think striking off was the only penalty for the offences committed. Failure to be present at the next hearing could result in removal of their names from the register.

One of the pharmacists tried to defraud the NHS of over £1,000 the Committee were told. Mr Frank Beardsell, who formerly had a pharmacy in Weymouth, was given a suspended sentence of nine months' imprisonment after being convicted at Dorchester Crown Court in January of attempting to obtain money by deception.

Mr Jocelyn Hill, solicitor, said Mr Beardsell tried to obtain £1,011.62 from the NHS by asserting that one month's prescriptions he had sent to the authority had been lost, when he had not sent them. After the offence Mr Beardsell had moved to Torpoint, Devon, worked there for a while and then moved to Salisbury. Although still registered it was believed he was not now working as a pharmacist.

Detective Inspector Denys Damen said that in May 1973 Mr Beardsell alleged his January parcel of prescriptions addressed to the pricing bureau at Newcastle-upon-Tyne had gone astray in the post. When he sent a parcel of prescription forms in the middle of March there were more forms than expected and the month on some had been altered from January to February.

The inspector said Mr Beardsell admitted the forgeries and said he made the alterations in good faith on realising he had kept back some prescriptions for January 1973. Had the pricing bureau paid out on Mr Beardsell's claim he would have received £1,011.62.

Adjourning the case, Sir Gordon said it was regrettable Mr Beardsell had not seen fit to attend or be represented. "It is a very sad story and all the sadder when it is borne in mind that Mr Beardsell is a man of 60 who has been on the register without any sign of previous trouble since 1935."

Convictions for theft

The Committee also postponed their decision to remove the name of Mrs Elizabeth Veronica Coogan, who is at present in a mental hospital.

Mrs Coogan told the Committee in April that she was fined £100 and put on probation for two years after being convicted of stealing goods worth £66 from Godkins Chemists, Tunbridge Wells, destroying prescriptions and being in unlawful possession of drugs.

The Committee was also told that over

7,000 Valium tablets and 400 sleeping tablets were found in her document case and a search of her home revealed three carrier bags full of pharmaceutical products. The Committee decided in April to adjourn the case for six months to enable her to get legal advice.

But the Committee was told last week that Mrs Coogan was convicted in August of stealing drugs and falsifying prescription forms while employed as a locum at a pharmacy while living in High Wycombe. She accepted responsibility for 15 other offences at the same shop and a further 151 offences at Lane End and Bourne End, near High Wycombe.

Another pharmacist advised to attend a hearing to show why he should not be struck off was Mr Alfred Turner, Richmond Road, Ilford.

Mr Turner, former superintendent pharmacist of J. W. M. Bradshaw and Son Ltd, Porters Avenue, Dagenham, was sentenced at Woodford Crown Court in July after admitting six theft charges and seven of giving false information in a Controlled Drugs register. He was fined £100 and sentenced to nine months' imprisonment suspended for two years.

Mr Jocelyn Hill said Mr Turner stole about 700 Dexedrine tablets from the Dagenham pharmacy and put false information in the register to indicate the tablets were dispensed to various people. Detective Sergeant James Hunter, of the Drugs Office, New Scotland Yard, said he was satisfied that Mr Turner had not been selling the tablets but taking them himself. He was an alcoholic and the tablets were taken in that connection.

Mr Rhodes understood Mr Turner had not been working since his convictions because he was ill. But he had not retired and would resume work when better.

Reprimand

The Committee reprimanded a Watford pharmacist, Mr Maurice Moise Levy, who had admitted to magistrates that he had unlawfully sold a steroid compound to Agjar Ullah, and Franol tablets to a Mr Gulbadi. He was also called before the Committee to answer allegations that he sold Eades pills to a Mr Cook and 500 Betnesol tablets to Mr Gulbadi in 1973 without prescriptions.

Mr W. B. Rhodes, an inspector of the Society, said he questioned Mr Levy in January about a gap in his prescription book between September, 1972, and April, 1973. Mr Levy explained he had lost the book during that period and had used a replacement which he could not produce. Mr Rhodes pointed out that there were entries in that prescription book for October, 1972, and January, 1973. He then asked Mr Levy about

entries relating to prescriptions he dispensed in April, 1973, for 500 Betnesol and 500 Franol tablets. Those entries showed that the prescriptions were made out by a Dr R. C. Mitra, Ratna Clinic, Sherpur, Afroz Gonj, Sylhet. In answer to the chairman, Mr Rhodes said that was certainly not an address in Hertfordshire!

When asked if he knew whether the doctor was registered in Britain, Mr Levy told Mr Rhodes: "No, you cannot expect me to check all prescriptions. I had no reason to doubt it was not valid." Mr Levy said he gave the tablets to a patient who was going abroad. The prescription form was not available since as it was marked "repeat" he gave it back.

Mr Rhodes said he also found another entry in April for a Mr Agjar Ullah for three ampoules of a steroid compound. This was again in the name of Dr Mitra. The entry in the book for 60 Eades pills for a Mr Cook was in the name of John Davis—the trade name used by Mr Levy.

Drugs for Bangladesh

Mr Levy said: "Where my shop is there is a high Pakistani, Indian and Bangladesh population. In the winter of 1972-73 there was a lot of disease and illness in Bangladesh and a lot of these immigrants were buying drugs for their wives, children and relatives over there."

Mr Levy said the prescription from Dr Mitra included about six items apart from the drugs. The rest were for vitamin tablets. He added that he had contacted the Bangladesh High Commission and was told that the Ratna Clinic did exist. Administering a reprimand, the chairman, Sir Gordon Willmer, said the Committee accepted that this was more a case of carelessness than a desire on the part of Mr Levy to break the law.

A Warrington pharmacist was reprimanded following his conviction in March for failing to enter particulars of controlled drugs in his register.

Mr Bernard Holding, Halton Road, Great Sankey, was fined a total of £200 at the Newton-le-Willows magistrates court on March 7 when he pleaded guilty to four offences of failing to enter consignments of Mandrax tablets in the register. Mr Holding wrote informing the Committee that he did not intend to appear at the hearing.

The Committee decided to take no further action against a firm of York chemists and its superintendent pharmacist following the illegal sale of oral contraceptives and the date-marking of a prescription.

No further action is to be taken against a Shepherds Bush, London, firm of chemists convicted of the unlawful sale of a kaolin and morphine mixture and Marzine tablets in the absence of a qualified pharmacist.

The Committee decided to take no further action against a company convicted of three illegal sales of medicines last year. There had also been allegations that there was no pharmacist in personal control on four occasions in 1971 and 1972, the pharmacist being absent on occasions because he was running an optical establishment. He now employed another pharmacist two days a week and conducted his optical work on those days.

Letters

Pride in 'MPS' lost after Care judgment

It is a far, far sadder thing that I do now than I have ever done before! As a direct result of the "Care" judgment I am left with no alternative but to tender my moral resignation from the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. In 1963 it was a proud day in my life when I could proclaim to the world that I was an MPS, now, in 1974, my membership simply fills me with shame and dismay.

It seems beyond belief that my own professional body could, for apparent reasons of internecine strife, reach a judgment based not on scientific investigation but rather on the views of a minority.

This judgment threatens to remove over 2,000 Care pharmacies from the register, with a disastrous reduction in the pharmaceutical service available to patients. This hardly seems consistent with our Charter. Incidentally, I cannot quite understand how anyone can remain a member of both the board of ICML and the Society's Council, without feeling distinctly compromised at this time.

Enough!

In my eleven years of membership the Society has only served to further restrict my activities as a community pharmacist. Enough is enough! Now must be the time for all progressive pharmacists to stand up and put an end to the cant and hypocrisy emanating from the Society. As a positive move, if sufficient support is forthcoming, it is my intention to launch a new group designed to restore sanity to pharmacy.

The group could be called "The Campaign for Democratic Pharmacy", and its objects could include elimination of the professional politicians at Bloomsbury Square (and Mallison House?) who take turns at ruling over us. Its major objective would be to prevent our professional body from maintaining its present negative punitive role which is contrary to its Charter and the interests of the majority of the membership.

Those supporting my sentiments should show the courage of their convictions by writing to me at The Crescent, Spalding, Lincs (Tel Spalding 3038). Early steps can then be taken to consider calling a special general meeting of the Society to debate a vote of no confidence in the Council. This would be followed by the nomination and election of candidates pledged to put our Society back in the right direction.

This letter has not been written without a great deal of heart-searching and discussion with colleagues, but, as the prospect of retirement is over thirty years away, I sincerely believe that the time has now arrived for us to clean up

the mess into which our Society has drifted.

Yours, more in sadness than in anger,
Graham Walker
Spalding Lincs.

Whilst recognising that Mr Walker has every right to be outraged at the "Care" situation, it must be pointed out that the Statutory Committee — not the Pharmaceutical Society's Council — gave the Care judgment. Furthermore, the case arose from the action of an individual member of the Society. — Editor.

Less than perfect

It would seem from Mr Urwin's letter (December 7) that he fears someone may not find the NPU and Contractors Committee as perfect as he does. But I am not convinced.

I feel that the NPU have made a serious error when their members of the Central Committee have allowed the distribution of 2.66p per item not to be made to pharmacies which have gone out of business or changed the name of the pharmacy during the year.

I feel that the Care scheme needs a complete reappraisal of its aims and objectives soon. In my view, the £150 joining fee is psychologically bad although it may be good business. In this day and age when any credit from anywhere is worth having, the payment of the Care account within seven days presents a problem. The Care promotions have not had the effect I had hoped for, particularly when I am being permanently undercut by the supermarket next door. The latest Care gem received today was the 1975 invoice with no names, just numbers. This will be most difficult to check.

The NPU, in my estimation, does do a good job for us but it does have faults and I would hardly call it "the envy of the pharmaceutical world".

A lot of what Mr Urwin says is true, but what a pity we have to forage our way through a lot of insulting verbiage to find the answers.

James S. Anderson
Newcastle-on-Tyne

Preserving our heritage

Canterbury Cathedral, still throbbing with life after eight-hundred years, requires now more than £3,000,000 to restore it to its former glory, before the ravages of atmospheric pollution eat too far into its fabric.

I know full well the many calls upon everyone's purse, but I am sure there are many good people of all faiths and none who would not wish to witness any further decay of this world-famous building which was marvelled at by 3,000,000 visitors last year, this most beautiful shrine of our British heritage.

To ensure that Canterbury will be restored to its original glory and then be maintained, Lord Astor of Hever, Lord Lieutenant of Kent, recently appointed to the ancient and honourable office of Seneschal of Canterbury Cathedral, is leading an appeal which has been launched this month from Lambeth Palace by the new Archbishop of Canterbury. The Earl of Cromer is honorary appeal treasurer. They are supported by a Coun-

cil of 100 people prominent in the life of the country. The Prince of Wales is Patron of the appeal.

I, whose only claim to prominence is comparative length of service, have the honour to be an original member of Lord Astor's Council, and through the courtesy of your columns, Mr Editor, I am asking your readers to be as generous with their contributions for the preservation of Canterbury Cathedral as they have with other appeals in the past. The sum required is more than £3,000,000. Formidable? Perhaps not so daunting when one realises that 200 only of your subscribing firms each signing a seven-year covenant for £10 would produce, at present rates of tax, more than £20,000. What a great start that would make.

Some of your readers, Sir, may wish to know more about the damage to the fabric of the cathedral and the decay now destroying the country's oldest and most famous collection of stained glass, begun in 1178. To them I shall be happy to send copies of the official appeal literature.

There is a convenient form in this issue to enable those UK readers who wish to do so to make their contribution. I am sure there will be many who will be anxious to ensure the survival for another thousand years of this living monument to the convictions, industry, artistry and faith of our forebears.

Glanvill Benn, Chairman
Benn Brothers Ltd
London EC4A 3JA

Drugs 'collection'

In what purports to be a responsible trade paper, what an astonishing Post Scripts in your December 7 issue.

You show a photograph of "drugs and herbal remedies taken into Crumpsall Hospital, Manchester by *one* (your italics) patient on admission!"—and on this evidence you judge that it is "not before time that herbal remedies are *at last* (my italics) to come under the scrutiny of a Committee on Safety of Medicines subcommittee."

If there were "2,800 tablets and capsules plus a variety of powders, lotions, creams and suppositories" in this one patient's possession, the person is frankly a nut.

I. M. Thomas
Culpeper Ltd
Linton, Cambridge

Even if a person is a "nut," surely he should be considered a "patient." The problem is regularly met in hospital casualty and other departments—see letter below. Is Mr Thomas suggesting that herbal remedies should not be scrutinised and if so on what grounds?—Editor.

I was interested to read of the collection of drugs brought into Crumpsall Hospital by one patient. This is a frequent occurrence in most hospitals but a problem may occur if, on discharge, the patient requests the return of the drugs. Since they are the patient's property, is the hospital legally bound to return the drugs despite the obvious dangers? Perhaps hospitals have a standard practice to overcome this problem and I would be interested to hear of any solution.

B. T. Hardy
Ivybridge, Devon

Company News

Guinness profits fall

Profit, before tax, of Arthur Guinness Son & Co Ltd (holding, subsidiary and associated companies) was £22.63m in the year ended September 28, against £23.82m in the previous year. The "breakdown" into various activities in the preliminary figures does not specify profits derived from their interest in pharmacies which have been expanding in number during the year. Under "general trading," trading profit has risen from £740,000 to £1.08m; confectionery fell from £472,000 to £373,000.

Wilkinson Sword contract for razor blade plant

A contract to supply £800,000 of plant for the production of razor blades is being placed with Wilkinson Sword Ltd by the German Democratic Republic. It is planned to have the factory fully operational by Spring 1976, production being some 100 million blades a year.

This is the third such contract from Comecon countries obtained by Wilkinson Sword in the face of strong competition from other manufacturers. The first was Poland, where plant and equipment worth more than £1 million have been supplied to their factory in Lodz since it was first set up in 1968, the other being the USSR.

Olney look to Europe

Olney Bros Ltd, Berkhamsted have purchased a company in Holland to act as selling agents for their shopfitting equipment.

For the first time in their 15 years of existence, Olney are to exhibit their fittings in Europe beginning in the Euro-shop exhibition at Dusseldorf, February 14-18 1975.

Celebrating 25 years

F. Widocks & Co Ltd, wholesale chemists distributors, Croydon, recently celebrated their 25 years in business with a dinner and dance for the staff and relatives. Mr Fred Widocks who founded the business was previously a representative for a cosmetics house. The directors now are Brian Widocks and R. B. Bailey, the staff numbering over 40.

Briefly

MCP Pharmaceuticals Ltd, state that their previously announced move to Livingston, near Edinburgh (see *C&D*, November 30, p771) took place on December 17. Distribution, manufacturing and administration operations are now at Grange Road, Houstoun Industrial Estate, Livingston, West Lothian, Scotland (Telephone: Liv-

ington 43243). Accounts services will continue to be provided by the parent company at Alperston.

Appointments

Smith Kline & French Laboratories Ltd: Ronald Bird, FRIC, MBCS, general manager of the company's overseas group since 1973, has been made a director of the company.

NPU Group: Mr S. J. Barton, BSc, MPS, MIPharmM, has joined the staff of the NPU Group as pharmacist in the information department. Mr Barton, 25, qualified from the School of Pharmacy, Portsmouth Polytechnic, in 1971. Since then, and after gaining hospital experience, he has been occupied in general practice with a large firm of multiples.

Vestric Ltd have appointed Mr D. O'Connell manager of their Carlisle depot in succession to Mr L. B. Jack who has been appointed manager of the company's Dunfermline branch. Mr O'Connell is a graduate member of the Institute of Personnel Management and recently obtained a degree in social science from the Open University.

Books

Health and Safety — The New Law

James Jackson. *The Commercial Publishing Co*, 1076 Harrow Road, London NW10 5NL. Pp 99. £4.00.

On January 1, 1975, the traditional industrial law enforcement agency, HM Factory Inspectorate, is replaced by a new national law enforcement agency. Named the Health and Safety Executive this takes over the functions of HMFI, the Mines and Quarries Inspectorate, the Alkali and Clean Air Inspectorate and a number of other bodies. Law enforcement officers will begin to exercise quite new and formidable powers to secure adherence to safety law. Prohibition Notices, which can achieve the immediate effect of shutting down production or preventing continued use of dangerous substances, may be issued simply on the discretion of inspectors. The officers may also issue Improvement Notices which simply identify:

- the inspector's belief that the law is being broken;
- the law or regulation being breached;
- a period of time during which the deficiency may be made good.

It is intended that improvement and prohibition notices will constitute the enforcement backbone of the new law. Incidence of such notices will greatly exceed criminal prosecutions brought under the earlier enforcement system.

On April 1, 1975, sweeping general duties will bear down upon: employers, persons controlling processes which may have an adverse effect on the health or safety of those in areas contingent to places of work and of premises from which certain substances may be emitted to the atmosphere, manufacturers and suppliers of goods, and employees.

The book, which contains the Act as an appendix, has been conceived as a contribution to the understanding of the law by people directly affected by it. The study is split into 31 short chapters each dealing with a separate subject.

Market News

ROUTINE DEMAND

London, December 18: There was a routine demand for crude drugs and essential oils during the week. Prices were shaded here and there in both sectors but a few of the botanicals were a little firmer.

For the first time in months aloes prices slipped back. Also easier were Peru balsam, Nigerian split ginger, celery seed and podophyllum. Firmer were cascara, lobelia, valerian and Brazilian menthol.

Essential oils marked down included Chinese cassia, patchouli, bois de rose, camphor white, Ceylon cinnamon leaf and Chinese peppermint. Brazilian peppermint, however, was up £0.50 kg.

Pharmaceutical chemicals

Aluminium chloride: Pure, 50-kg lots, £0.6766 kg.
Ammonium chloride: Pure in 50-kg lots £0.1872 kg for powder.
Aspirin: 10-ton lots £0.76 kg.
Bemegride: BPC £16 kg.
Bismuth salts: £ per kg.

	under 50-kg	50-kg	250-kg
carbonate	9.18	8.95	8.90
salicylate	7.68	7.45	—
subgallate	8.13	7.90	—
subnitrate	8.33	8.10	8.05

Borax: EP grades, 2-4 ton lots per metric ton, in paper bags delivered — granular £115; crystals £159; powder £128; extra fine powder £133. Technical grades less £30.00 per ton for British materials.

Kaolin: BP natural £80.15 per 1,000 kg; light £85.30 ex works.

Crude drugs

Aloes: Cape £1,300 metric ton, spot; £1,250, cif. Curacao £1,350 spot; no cif.

Balsams (kg): Canada: £18.00 cif. **Copaiba** BPC £2.55 spot; £2.40, cif. **Peru:** £8.80 spot; £8.65, cif. **Tolu:** £3.75 spot; no cif.

Cascara: £1,000 metric ton spot.
Cassia: lignea £1,150, cif.

Ginger: (ton, cif) Cochín £495, Sierra Leone unquoted; Jamaican No. 3 £895. Nigerian split £525, peeled £795.

Lobelia: European herb £920 metric ton spot; £880, cif; American, coarse powder, £470.

Menthol: Brazilian £15.25 kg spot; shipment £15.00, cif. Chinese £21.00 spot £19.50, cif.

Pepper: (ton, cif) Sarawak black £800 spot; £780, cif. White £1,035 and £940 respectively.

Pimento (ton) Shipment \$(Jamaican) 2,500 fob.

Podophyllum: Root £485 metric ton, cif.

Seeds: (ton) Anise: China Star unselected £725 cif. Caraway: Dutch £365, cif. Celery: Indian £375, cif. Coriander: Moroccan for shipment £100, cif. Cumin: Indian £750, cif. Dill: Chinese for shipment £205; Indian £215, cif.

Fennel: £335, cif. **Fenugreek:** £110, cif. **Mustard:** £320-£340 spot.

Turmeric: Madras finger £300 metric ton spot; new crop, Feb.-March £280, cif.

Valerian: Indian root £650 metric ton, cif.

Essential oils

Bois de rose: Shipment £6.25 kg, cif.

Camphor white: £2.00 kg spot and cif.

Cassia: Chinese £13.50 kg spot; £13.60 cif.

Cinnamon: Ceylon leaf £2.40 spot; £2.15, cif. English distilled bark £180 kg.

Patchouli: £6.00 kg spot; £5.50, cif.

Peppermint: (kg) Arvensis Brazilian £5.50 spot; £5.00, cif. Chinese £9.00 spot; £8.15, cif.

American piperata from £18.00.

The prices given are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities and do not include value added tax. They represent the last quoted or accepted prices as we go to press but it should be noted that in the present state of the markets quotations change frequently.

Westminster report

Mrs Knight criticises safety packaging report

The Medicines Commission report on safety packaging (*C&D*, August 10, p 176) was criticised in the Commons last week by Mrs Jill Knight who presented her own Safety Packaging for Medicines Bill (*C&D*, December 7, p 797).

Mrs Knight said she was "not happy" about the report, partly because it proposed action only on tablets. "Many children were poisoned through drinking medicines." She was also "unhappy" about what it said about testing -- that the Commission could not support the introduction of standard tests for child-resistant containers requiring participation by young children, because they would involve showing the children how to open them.

"I have heard some stupid things in my time, but nothing more stupid than that," Mrs Knight said. "The idea of these tests is to get a room full of children and give them the devices to see whether

they can open them within a certain period. If at the end of that time they have not succeeded in opening them, one does not go over to them and say 'Diddums, diddums, dere, dere. This is how you open it.' There is no need to do that. Indeed, in America and Canada, where such tests have been successfully carried out, that was not done."

Mrs Knight felt that publicity drives did not work, and was disappointed that the report should rely on such a drive. The recommendation that tablets ought not look like sweets or be packed in large bottles was fine, "but we ought to do more, in view of the evidence available to us". "The evidence from North America, "where child poisoning cases have been cut down drastically following legislation," showed that the House should do something to guard against the danger to children.

'Misleading' advertising

Mr Ioan Evans called for action against misleading advertisements for medicine in the Commons. He said people were being encouraged to buy medicines "which are at best useless." Mr Alan Williams, Minister of State, Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, said the Medicines Act and the Food and Drugs Act laid down certain advertising requirements. He asked Mr Evans to let him have details of any specific case he had in mind.

Pensions Bill royal assent

The Social Security Amendment Act 1974 received the royal assent last week. The House of Commons disagreed with an amendment introduced by the House of Lords to reduce self-employed persons' contributions paid on schedule D gains between £1,600 and £3,600 from 8 per cent to 5 per cent. The House of Lords then decided not to insist with their amendment.

Pharmacy protests on VAT

Mr Joel Barnett, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said in the Commons last week that he had received over 430 written representations from or about retail pharmacists and the possible introduction of additional rates of value added tax. Replying to a question from Mr Leslie Spriggs MP, Mr Barnett added that Customs and Excise were in consultation with trade bodies, studying the problems that would arise, but he stressed that no decisions had yet been made.

Minimum retail wages

Lord Jacques said in the House of Lords last week that ways of improving the enforcement of minimum wages in the retail trade were under "active consideration," following the National Economic Development Office report that 24 per cent of sales assistants were not paid the minimum entitlement.

Classified Advertisements

Post to Classified Advertisements, Chemist & Druggist, 25 New Street Square, London, EC4A 3JA.
Telephone: 01-353 3212.

Publication date Every Saturday.

Headings All advertisements appear under appropriate headings.

Screen 100.

Display/Semi Display £3.00 per single column centimetre, min 25mm. Column width 42mm.
Whole Page £250 (254mm x 178mm).
Half Page £150 (125mm x 178mm).
Quarter Page £80 (125mm x 86mm).

Lineage £0.60 per line, minimum 5 lines @ £3.00.

Box Numbers £0.30 extra.

Series Discounts 5% on 3 insertions or over. 10% on 7 insertions or over. 15% on 13 insertions or over.

Copy date 4 pm Tuesday prior to publication date. Advertisements should be prepaid.

Circulation ABC January/December 1972, 14,992.

Miscellaneous

STARGEMS FASHION JEWELLERY DISPLAYS

Gentlemen dispense a lightening pick-me-up for your business by stocking our range of Star-Gems Displays. These elegant little salesmen are working very successfully all over the country reaping in handsome profits, continuity of which is assured by repeats from our huge stock, fantastic selection on each display, giving a wonderful range without stocking large quantities of each line. These little pep pills can be working for you within seconds of delivery. Every line clearly marked with suggested retail selling price. Phone Leicester 26403 (STD Code 0533) now or write to R. F. Vernon & Co., 52 Mount Road, Leicester. REMEMBER presentation spells profits.

FASHION JEWELLERY

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Tel: 061-832 6564

Largest and most exclusive range of direct and imported Continental Jewellery. Necklets, Pendants, Dress Rings, Earrings, Brooches, Bracelets, Hair Ornaments.

Suppliers to Chemists over 20 years.
Sample parcels available.

PREMATURE EJACULATION can be prevented with DEFERGEL. 6 tubes £2.75 (Retail 75p) plus VAT Post Free — Lloyd's, 51, Albert Road Southsea, Hants.

Please mention Chemist & Druggist
when replying to advertisements.

Business for sale

Enquiries are invited for the purchase of a small Tablet Making business licensed under the Medicines Act, equipped to manufacture Aspirin, Paracetamol and allied products together with Saccharin tablets. Good quotas of material available, fully equipped to pack in bottles and unit pack as required under recent recommendations. Turnover approx. £200,000 per year with good net profits. Reason for sale impending retirement of owner. All enquiries in confidence. Box No. 2289.

Wanted

WE WILL PURCHASE for cash a complete stock of a redundant line, including finished or partly finished goods packaging, raw materials, etc. No quantity too large. Our representative will call anywhere. Write or telephone Lawrence Edwards & Co. Ltd., 6/7 Wellington Close, Ledbury Road, London, W.11. Tel: Park 3137-8

URGENTLY REQUIRED, all items connected with old-fashioned Pharmacies—Runs of drug drawers, shop rounds, jars, etc. Complete interiors of pharmacies bought. Telephone Ashted (Surrey) 73219 or Ashted 76626 or write Robin Wheeler, "Maplehurst", Park Lane, Ashted, Surrey.

GOOD PRICES always paid for complete old Chemists shop interiors, including shelf, drawer, and dispensing units, showcases, jars etc. 127, Pancras Rd., London, N.W.1 01-387 5039

Appointments

Sales Manager Pharmaceuticals

The CWS Pharmaceutical Factory at Droylsden, Manchester manufactures a range of medicinal, toiletries, and baby products, and acts as distributor for ethical and proprietary medicines, toiletries, and major chemist sundries.

We are seeking to appoint a Sales Manager who, reporting to the Factory Manager, will direct a team of four representatives selling—in these products to pharmacy and grocery outlets.

The preparation and achievement of sales targets, the issue of monthly price lists and promotional information, and the interpretation of sales statistics—these will be your prime responsibilities. You will be expected to maintain good customer relations and be able to negotiate trade bonus offers for chemists which fall

outside our national promotions programme.

You must have experience of selling within the pharmaceutical industry, preferably at management level. This job calls for a skilled salesman, who can develop and motivate his own sales team.

A good salary is offered, plus threshold payments, relocation expenses where applicable and other benefits.

Please contact A. B. Gray, Personnel Officer—Employment & Training, CWS Ltd. Grocery Group, New Century House, Manchester M60 4EF Tel: 061-834 1212



Co-operative
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An opportunity arises for a young energetic **PRODUCTION MANAGER** with tablet making experience and with necessary disciplines under the Medicines Licencing Act in a well established and progressive small firm. Present owner is preparing for retirement and this is a splendid opportunity for partnership followed by full ownership. **Box No 2290.**

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Or phone:
736 2194/2397 for appointment.

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SHOPFRONTS and interior fittings by Chemist Specialists, WARWICK SHOPFITTING, 20 Rudd Street, London, SE18 6RS. Tel: 01-854 6343.

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Tax Tables 1974/75

16 pages of easy-to-read tables covering the new rates of income tax, corporation tax and ACT, for 60p.

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West Dorset Health Care
District

HERRISON HOSPITAL

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

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Applicants should possess the Apothecaries Hall Certificate or equivalent qualification.

This is an interesting job providing an opportunity to work closely with the Ward Staff.

Single residential accommodation may be available.

Salary Scale: £1,452-£1,962 p.a. plus £229 p.a. threshold payment.

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Closing date 6th January 1975.

REDBRIDGE/

WALTHAM FOREST AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY EAST RODING DISTRICT

KING GEORGE HOSPITAL, Eastern Avenue, Ilford, Essex.
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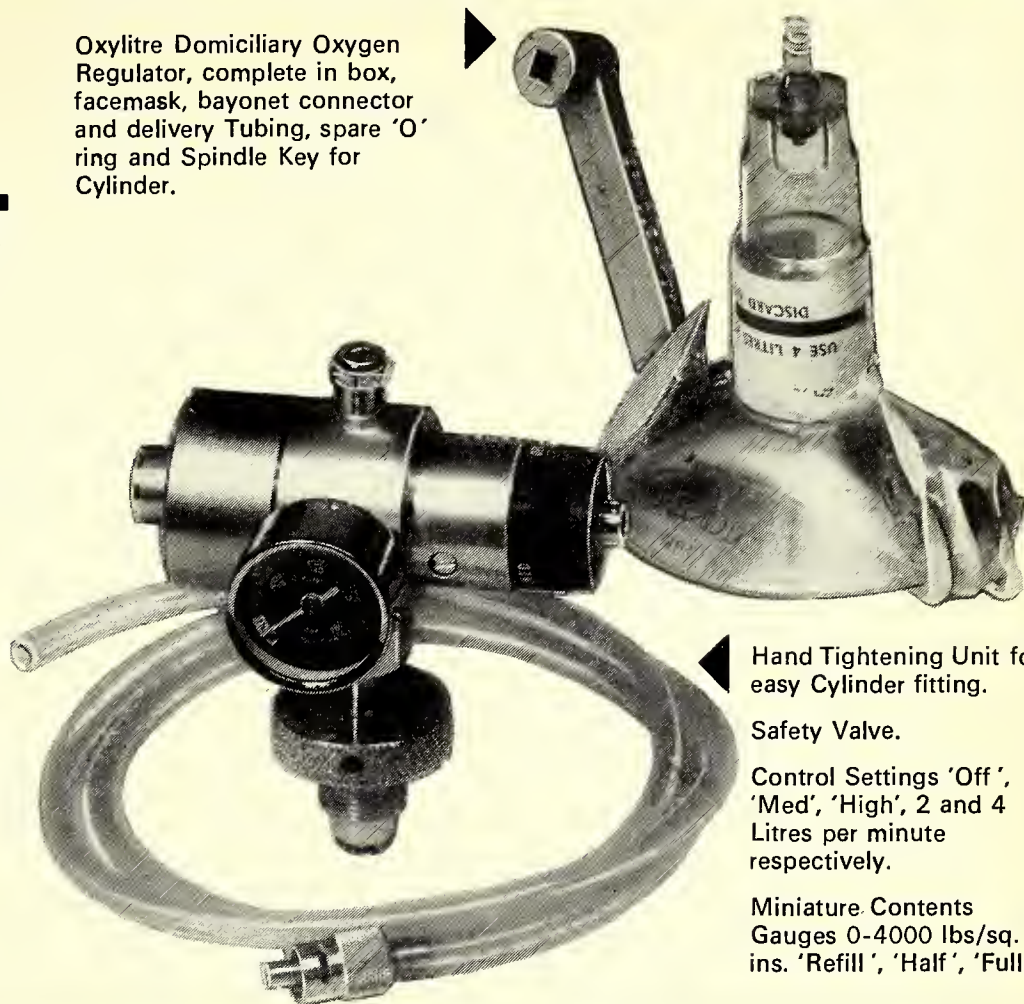
PHARMACISTS required full or part-time, for duties at either of the above hospitals. Both hospitals are in pleasant outer London Residential Areas and are both adjacent to Underground Stations, with direct access to Central London. Salary scale £1,872-£2,340, p.a. plus £126 p.a. London Weighting (under review) and Threshold Agreement payments. Enquiries and applications to the District Pharmaceutical Officer, Barking Hospital, Upney Lane, Barking, Essex. Telephone 01-594 3898.

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The Trustees are also prepared to consider applications for financial assistance, beyond the scope of an employer's responsibilities, with education or training in general or special subjects, including music and the arts.

For additional information, or to apply for assistance, write to:

The Secretary, Dept CD
The Triangle Trust 1949 Fund
Clarges House, 6-12, Clarges Street
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